

REMARKS

Claims 26-33, 41-50, and 52-54 are pending in this application. In this Response, Applicants have amended certain claims because Applicants believe these amendments serve a useful clarification purpose, and are desirable for clarification purposes, independent of patentability. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the claim amendments do not limit the range of any permissible equivalents.

In particular, claims 41-54 have been rewritten as discussed below. As no new matter has been added by the amendments herein, Applicants respectfully request entry of these amendments at this time.

ALLOWED SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's allowance of claims 26-33 and 41-48. In addition, Applicants appreciate the Examiner's recognition of allowable subject matter in claims 50-51 and 53 if rewritten in independent form. In response, Applicants have rewritten claim 49 to include the subject matter previously recited in claim 51. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 49-51 and 52-54 are in condition for allowance.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 49, 52, and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,082,285 to Hamada *et al.* for the reasons provided on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's rejection, however, in the interest of expediting allowance of these claims, claim 49 has been rewritten to include subject matter indicated by the Examiner to be allowable. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome.

CONCLUSION

All claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the present amendments still do not resolve all of the issues regarding patentability of the pending claims, Applicants invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned attorneys to discuss any remaining issues.

No fees are believed to be due at this time. Should any fee be required, however, please charge such fee to Swidler Berlin LLP Deposit Account No. 195127, Order No. 20002.0400.

Respectfully submitted,
SWIDLER BERLIN LLP

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By: Stephanie D. Scruggs
Stephanie D. Scruggs, Registration No. 54,432
SWIDLER BERLIN LLP
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7755 Telephone
(202) 295-8478 Facsimile